



MWANZA RURAL HOUSING PROGRAMME (MRHP-NGO)

“Shirika la Nyumba na Hifadhi ya Chakula Vijijini”

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Our Ref: MRHP/PM/SWEDEN/01/May/2022

Your Ref:

Date: 19/05/2022

TO: Prime Minister
SWEDEN.

Dear Prime Minister,

RE: Swedish Government Development Aid Budget Cut

We, Mwanza Rural Housing (MRHP) a partner organisation to We Effect/SIDA, write to you to express our deep concerns of the decision to dramatically cut Sweden's official development assistance.

The war in Ukraine has underlined how severely vulnerable groups are affected in times of crisis. Already enduring the economic effects of the Covid-19 pandemic and the climate crisis, people in poverty are now suffering from skyrocketing food prices.

The Secretary-General of the UN warns that 1,7 billion people – one fifth of the world's population– are at risk of hunger and poverty. The world is in the worst humanitarian situation since World War II. Nearly half of humanity lives in the danger zone of climate crisis.

We Tanzanian citizens, bear witness of the UN reports. With this in mind, the historic and tragic decision to cut the development assistance will impact us in unprecedented ways. For us, the cut has drastic implications/effects as listed below.

- Our work towards addressing the challenges of existing inequality between rural women and men in control and ownership of productive resources and assets – including land and housing will be severely affected as a result of this budget cut. Majority of women in Tanzania have weak rights to land due to various reasons including discriminatory inheritance laws, conflicting macro and micro policies of legal and customary that has created gaps between the national and local legal processes, and Social cultural barriers that block women from fully realizing their right to land. Most women have access to land through their spouses or male relatives but do not own on their own, unmarried daughters, widows and divorced women have been a subject of stigmatization, discrimination and harassment by their male relatives in different ways. Land is the most critical economic resource for most of the rural poor who depend on agriculture for their livelihoods.
- Implementation of activities related to promoting the rights to adequate housing for members of housing cooperatives will also be affected to large extent taking into account housing require long term investment. Despite the good efforts made by our

organization through funding from We Effect/SIDA in addressing the challenge of poor housing condition but yet majority poor quality constructed houses along with poor and inadequate water and sanitation facilities. Women and people with special needs are the mostly affected in some way, and are at high risk of contracting diseases especially when they use poor sanitary facilities such un-improved pit latrines.

- In addition, interventions aiming at addressing the negative impact of Environment and Climate Change (ECC) will also be affected as a result of this budget cut. The organization have been mainstreaming interventions that are eco-friendly such firing of bricks made from clay soil by use agro-waste materials such as rice husks instead of tree logs. This has reduced the rate of deforestations. We have also been training women in the technology of making and installation of Energy Saving Stoves (ESS). The stoves use few firewood for cooking, and have reduced the workload of women. Women in the our working who are using ESS have confirmed that they have reduced frequencies of entering the forests or the bushes in search of firewood by 50% that is from twice a week to once a week.
- Our engagement with the government officials (the principal duty bearers) shall also be affected to greater extent. The organization in collaboration with other We Effect partners in the country has been actively engaging the government officials at local to national level for lobbying and advocating policy review and effective implementations, campaigning for women social rights including land and housing rights, rights to participation in leadership and decision making bodies. With respect to campaigns, our organization in collaboration with other development partners including the government organized the National Women's Land Rights campaign which is an initiative of We-Effect and Tanzania partners aiming at advocating for increased women land rights and secure tenure among in the country. This campaign, which is organized annually started in March 2021 during International Women Day (IWD) through the caravan in various parts of the country. The event is also planned to take this year 2022 during International Day for Rural Women.

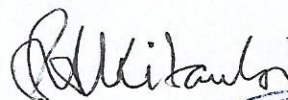
Dear Magdalena, as Sweden's Prime Minister and leader of your government, we know you are a strong believer in international solidarity. We also thank you enough for the support your country has given in the past.

We now encourage you to stand with us in these desperate times and re-evaluate the decision to cut development assistance, to make sure that the consequences of the war in Ukraine and the climate crisis will be as limited as possible.

Kindly, show your full support to civil society organisations and people in poverty that we support. Your financial support is needed more than ever. It is a long-term investment in a more sustainable and just world.

We look forward to your reply.

Victor Kitambi



**For Chief Executive Director – MRHP NGO
Mwanza – TANZANIA.**

